

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1992

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINR, DA

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF OTTO BORCH, DANISH AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO
UNITED STATES

REF: STATE 302931; COPENHAGEN 3826

1. DURING MY FOUR HOUR LONG DISCUSSION WITH DANISH AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE TO THE USA, OTTO BORCH, WE TALKED ABOUT THE GOALS
HE HAS SET FOR HIMSELF IN HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT. IN ORDER TO
FULLY UNDERSTAND THESE, I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT
AMBASSADOR BORCH HAS HAD EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN MULTI-
LATERAL DIPLOMACY PRIOR TO ASSUMING HIS PRESENT POSITION AS DIRECTOR
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT THE DANISH FOREIGN OFFICE. BORCH WAS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE NATO CUNCIL FROM 1964
TO 1967, FROM WHERE HE WAS TRANSFERRED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE
UN. SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN NY IN 1967 HE CHAIRED THE
SECURITY COUNCIL, REMAINING AT THE UN UNTIL 1974.

2. IN ADDITION TO HIS LONG SERVICE WITH MULTI-LATERAL ORGANIZATIONS,
AMB BORCH SPENT MANY YEARS OF HIS LIFE IN THE US, FIRST GOING
TO THE US IN 1946, WHERE HE REMAINED FOR ONE-HALF YEAR
ON A GRANT PROVIDED BY THE WORLD STUDENT SERVICE FUND. HE
SPENT AN ADDITIONAL YEAR (1948-49) AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ON
A ROTARY FELLOWSHIP, DURING WHICH TIME HE STUDIED INTER-
NATIONAL LAW AND RELATIONS. IN 1963 HE WAS A DELEGATE TO THE
UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND RETURNED IN 1967 AS THE DANISH
AMBASSADOR TO THE UN.

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3. THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT AMB BORCH IS BOTH EMOTIONALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY PROFOUNDLY PRO-AMERICAN. OTHERS WHO KNOW HIM WELL FROM HIS DAYS AT NAC AND THE UN WILL ATTEST BOTH TO HIS PRO-AMERICAN FEELINGS AND HIS INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES.

4. AMB BORCH TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE DIALOGUE AND CONTACT BETWEEN THE US AND DENMARK. TOWARD THIS END HE WOULD HOPE TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT AN INCREASED NUMBER OF VISITS BY HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS AND TOP OFFICIALS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, SO THAT DENMARK CAN PLAY AN EVEN MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN MULTI-LATERAL FORUMS WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT THE AMERICAN POSITION IS AND ALSO DEVELOP BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF DANISH ATTITUDES IN US. HE BELIEVES THAT THE MOMENT IS PROPITIOUS FOR SUCH A DIALOGUE, SINCE THE RESERVATIONS THE DANISH GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HAD CONCERNING AMERICAN POLICIES IN INDOCHINA HAVE NOW BEEN REMOVED, AND DANISH COMMITMENT TO NATO APPEARS TO BE STRONGER TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE FELT THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN MID-NOVEMBER OF THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER, ANKER JORGENSEN, HAD CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO AN IMPROVED DANISH UNDERSTANDING OF THE US. HE STRESSED HOW GRATEFUL THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE FOR THEIR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT AND HOW MUCH THEY APPRECIATED SECRETARY KISSINGER TAKING TIME TO MEET WITH THE DANISH LEADERS, DESPITE THE LAST-MINUTE CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE.

5. AMB BORCH EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PERHAPS HE COULD BE INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SPEND A FEW HOURS IN COPENHAGEN NEXT TIME HE TRAVELS ABROAD. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT CONSIDER STOPPING OFF IN COPENHAGEN AFTER MEETING WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW NEXT TIME HE GOES THERE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY FOR A BRIEF VISIT TO COPENHAGEN BY THE SECRETARY MIGHT BE FOLLOWING THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN OSLO IN LATE MAY. HE THOUGHT THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BUILD ON THE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AS A RESULT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN NOVEMBER. HE ALSO NOTED THAT COPENHAGEN HAS NOT HAD HIGH-LEVEL VISIT BY US OFFICIAL IN

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SEVERAL YEARS AND TIME IS PROPITIOUS FOR SUCH AN EVENT. FOR EXAMPLE, BORCH NOTED, WERE THE SECRETARY TO STOP IN COPENHAGEN WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD AFTER THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN ON JANUARY 18-19, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO BRIEF HIM PERSONALLY ON THIS MEETING.

6. HIGH ON BORCH'S CALENDAR ALSO IS THE NEED TO MAKE ATTANGEMENTS FOR THE DANISH QUEEN'S VISIT TO THE STATES

IN MAY. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS VISIT TO DANISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SINCE IT IS SYMBOLIC OF THE CLOSE AND TRADITIONAL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE VERY ACTIVE IN WASHINGTON IN DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF THIS VISIT WHICH DEPENDS TO LARGE EXTENT ON THE QUEEN'S RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON.

7. BUT BEYOND THESE TWO SPECIFIC ITEMS, BORCH SAID THAT HE HOPE TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS NOT ONLY ON BI-LATERAL MATTERS, BUT ALSO ON SUBJECTS OF MULTILATERAL CONCERN, I.E. TOPICS UNDER DISCUSSION IN NATO, THE COMMON MARKET OR THE UN. IT IS BY SUCH AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN WASHINGTON AND COPENHAGEN THAT DENMARK CAN PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN ULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TAKE INITIATIVE IN FULL COGNIZANCE OF THE AMERICAN POSITION. HE POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS AT THE UN AND NAC, AS WELL AS IN HIS OST RECENT JOB AS DIRECTOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN COPENHAGEN, HE HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT AMERICAN VIEWS, SINCE AS HE PUT IT "NOTHING MEANINGFUL CAN BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT THE US IN VIEW OF ITS DOMINANT ROLE IN PROVIDING FOR THE SECURITY OF WESTERN EUROPE."

8. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS DISCUSSED IN PARA 5 ABOVE, BORCH WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE A GREATER EXCHANGE OF VISITS BETWEEN AMERICAN AND DANISH FOREIGN POLICYMAKERS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WOULD LIKE TO BE INSTRUMENTAL IN HAVING MORE AMERICANS STOP OFF IN COPENHAGEN TO BRIEF DANISH OFFICIALS ON SUBJECTS SUCH AS THE COMMON MARKET, FOREIGN TRADE, THE NEAR EAST, AFRICA, ETC., WHILE HE HOPES THAT MORE DANES WOULD TRAVEL TO THE US FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS WITH AMERICAN COLLEAGUES. AMB BORCH SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT HE INTENDED TO BE MORE ACTIVE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR IN

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SEEKING CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS, AS WELL AS WITH AMERICAN LEADERS IN DIFFERENT GOEGRAPHIC AND FUNCTIONAL AREAS.

9. A SUMMARY OF AMB BORCH'S VIEWS ON NATO AND E-C RELATIONS, SPAIN'S LINK TO NATO AND THE E-C, PROSPECTS FOR THE UN, AND THE DANISH ROLE IN THE NATO DEFENSE POSTURE ARE DISCUSSED IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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